

City of Palo Alto

CALIFORNIA
94301

WATER-GAS-SEWER DEPARTMENT

① McKinnon	✓	✓	
Shelley	✓	✓	
Hinkley	✓	✓	
② McPheeters	✓	✓	
Carlson		HANDLING	✓
Chumata		DISCARD	
Elliott		FILE	

Mr. George L. McPheeters
Water Division Engineer
City of Mountain View
540 Castro Street
Mountain View, California 94040

RECEIVED

SEP 17 1971

PUBLIC WORKS

Subject: 464 Ellis Street
Fairchild Industrial Waste

Dear George:

On September 2, I was conducted through the Fairchild plant at 464 Ellis Street to observe their methods of controlling chemical industrial waste discharges.

While time did not permit a thorough tour of all their facilities, in the part I was able to observe the handling of solvents appeared to be unsatisfactory.

Isopropyl alcohol is used in small containers to clean parts, and is changed frequently. The used solvent is collected in a pan under the sink and disposed of later by pouring it down the drain. Since the used solvent is actually accumulated before discharging, it would seem that other means of disposal could be arranged.

In addition, used trichlorethylene is disposed of into the sewer and collected in the neutralization pit from which it is periodically pumped. While this is a typical method of handling used trichlorethylene, it seems to be an easy way for this solvent to find its way into the sewer system. It can be carried over due to agitation by the incoming stream, by combining with other products in the waste water, by its solubility in water, and by failure to pump out at the proper time.

It is requested that you accompany me on a more thorough tour of this facility to verify my quickly made observations. If we find that in fact their solvent disposal methods are unsatisfactory, they should be requested to change procedures.

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If in the opinion of the officials of the company the quality of solvents being discharged is not significant, then tests should be required in accordance with Section 35.35.15 of the Mountain View ordinance. An analytical method called gas chromatography is available by which solvents can be positively identified. This method is expensive and the sample would have to be sent out for analysis.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF PALO ALTO

W. A. Chapman
W. A. Chapman
Associate Engineer

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